Subject No. 49.

Compulsory Registration of births and deaths.

Summary of discussion.—The existing arrangements for the registration of births and deaths are found to be defective, and all attempts hitherto made to secure accuracy of information on these subjects have proved futile. The schedules prescribed and kept in this behalf in Shimoga, for example, have been found to contain numerous discrepancies almost destroying their probative character and rendering the information therein contained, useless. An Act for the compulsory registration of births and deaths is therefore necessary and it would aid the working of the Infant Marriage Prevention Act by affording evidence of correct dates of births. Mr. Sadasiva Rao (Pleader and Landholder and R. M. from Dodballapur Municipality) and Mr. Narasimmaiengar (Pleader and R. M. from Nagar Sabha) deprecated an addition to the penal laws of the country in the manner suggested. The duty of registering these events should continue to devolve on Government Officials and the existing system should be improved and correct registration facilitated.

Dewan's reply.—Compulsory registration would involve a certain amount of interference with public freedom, and it is doubtful that there would be corresponding advantage. Some provision in this behalf, however, may be made in the Municipal Regulation now under consideration and a trial first made in Municipalities.

Subject No. 50.

District Committees for Muzrai Institutions.

Summary of discussion.—Great abuses exist at present in the management of Muzrai (*i. e.*, religious and charitable) Institutions. A very large number of these possess Government endowments in land or cash, but it is only a small proportion of these that are under the supervision of the Muzrai Department, and of them again, it is only a few that the Muzrai Superintendent can regularly and frequently inspect. It will be a great boon, therefore, to take under Muzrai supervision all institutions for which there is any Government grant, and to appoint a separate committee for each District similar to the Local Fund Boards to see that the institutions are worked and maintained in good order and the intentions of the grants are fulfilled. Where these intentions are not fulfilled, the grants should not be resumed but transferred to other managers for better management.

Dewan's reply.—By the appointment of Dharmadarsis in many places and otherwise, we are doing what we can. The rule is to resume the Inams when their purposes are not fulfilled, and there will be no objection to entrust them for management to better hands if possible. (See also subject No. 56.)

Subject No. 51.

Remuneration of Totis and Talaris.

Summary of discussion.—The subject of remuneration of Totis and Talaris by Raiyats' Miras was discussed by some Representatives from Malnad and Maidan Districts